



# Smithsonian Institution Archives

## John Warren Aldrich Interviews, 1975, 1977

by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives  
Washington, D.C.  
Contact us at [osiaref@si.edu](mailto:osiaref@si.edu)  
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## Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <i>osiaref@si.edu</i>
Creator:	Aldrich, John W. (John Warren), 1906-1995 interviewee.
Title:	John Warren Aldrich Interviews
Dates:	1975, 1977
Quantity:	4 audiotapes (reference copies). 7 digital .mp3 files (reference copies).

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9511, Aldrich, John W. (John Warren),  
1906-1995 interviewee., John Warren Aldrich Interviews

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## Historical Note

John Warren Aldrich (1906-1995) was a Research Associate of the Division of Birds of the National Museum of Natural History. Aldrich's interest in natural history began in his youth, with participation in bird walks and summer nature camps. After receiving his Ph.D. in biology from Brown University in 1928, Aldrich began his career at the Buffalo Museum of Science. In 1930, he joined the staff of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History as a biological assistant. Upon receipt of his Ph.D. in 1937, from Western Reserve University, Aldrich was appointed Curator of Ornithology at the Cleveland Museum. In 1941, Aldrich joined the staff of the Fish and Wildlife Service as a biologist; in 1947, he was appointed Chief of the Section of Distribution and Migration of Birds; in 1951, Chief of the Section of Distribution of Birds and Mammals; and in 1957, Staff Specialist, Branch of Wildlife Research. During his tenure with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Aldrich was located in the United States National Museum, Division of Birds, where he worked with the national collections. Because of his long association with the Division, Aldrich was appointed a Research Associate upon his retirement in 1973. Aldrich's research interests included the taxonomy of North American birds, breeding bird population studies, bird banding, bird distribution studies, ecology, endangered species, and wildlife management. Aldrich was active in many professional organizations including: the Audubon Society, American Ornithologists Union, Baird Ornithological Club of Washington, D.C., Biological Society of Washington, Cosmos Club, International Council for Bird Preservation, Washington Biologists Field Club and Wilderness Society.

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## Introduction

The Smithsonian Institution Archives began its Oral History Program in 1973. The purpose of the program is to supplement the written documentation of the Archives' record and manuscript collections with an Oral History Collection, focusing on the history of the Institution, research by its scholars, and contributions of

its staff. Program staff conduct interviews with current and retired Smithsonian staff and others who have made significant contributions to the Institution. There are also interviews conducted by researchers or students on topics related to the history of the Smithsonian or the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

Aldrich was interviewed for the Oral History Program because of his long professional association with the Division of Birds of the National Museum of Natural History.

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## Descriptive Entry

Aldrich was interviewed on 19 September 1975 and 18 April 1977, by Pamela M. Henson. The interview covers his early interests in natural history; education; career in ornithology at the Buffalo Museum of Science, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Museum of Natural History; research interests; and professional activities.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Ornithologists  
Ornithology  
Records of meetings, organizations, and professional societies

Types of Materials:

Audiotapes  
Interviews  
Oral history

Names:

Aldrich, John W. (John Warren), 1906-1995  
Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States  
Baird Ornithological Club of Washington, D.C.  
Biological Society of Washington  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
Cosmos Club (Washington, D.C.)  
Department of Vertebrate Zoology (NMNH). Division of Birds (NMNH)  
Department of Zoology (NMNH). Division of Birds (NMNH)  
Division of Birds (NMNH). Department of Vertebrate Zoology (NMNH)  
Division of Birds (NMNH). Department of Zoology (NMNH)  
Henson, Pamela M. interviewer.  
International Council for Bird Preservation  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington Biologists' Field Club  
Wilderness Society (U.S.)

## Container Listing

### Box 1

#### Transcripts of Interviews

Interview 1: 19 September 1975

Interview 2: 18 April 1977

#### Audio Recordings of Interviews

Interview 1: 19 September 1975

Interview 2: 18 April 1977